Pilgrim and spiritual Tourism in Andhra Pradesh

1482. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are promoting pilgrim and spiritual tourism in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Promotion and development of tourism including pilgrim and spiritual tourism in the State are undertaken by the respective State Governments. The Central Department of Tourism promote the country as a whole inlcuding the places of pilgrim and spiritual importance in the State of Andhra Pradesh through publicity and promotional campaigns both in India and abroad.

Rural Tourism

1483. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have a proposal to start rural tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed for its implementation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Tourism, Government of India has proposed a scheme to develop rural tourism in the country in the 10th Five Year Plan.

Under the scheme, a maximum amount of Rs. 50.00 lakh is proposed for rural tourism projects. The financial assistance will be provided for undertaking the following works:

Improvement of the surroundings of the village. This would include activities like landscaping, development of parks, fencing, compound wall etc.

Improvements to roads within the Panchayat limits. This shall not include any major road which connects the village.

Illumination in the village.

Providing for improvement in solid waste management and sewerage management. (only capital costs)